

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR TU CY GR

SUBJ: KATHIMERINI EDITORIAL BITTERLY ATTACKS HUMPHREY

AMENDMENT ON AID TO TURKEY ISSUE AND ALLEGES

AMBASSADORS KUBISCH AND MACOMBER PLAYED ROLES

IN SECURING ITS ADOPTION

FOR AMBASSADOR KUBISCH FROM STEARNS

1. BELOW IS FULL TEXT OF EDITORIAL WHICH APPEARED IN
DECEMBER 6 KATHIMERINI, UNDER TITLE "AIMS AND METHODS."

BEGIN TEXT

THE OTHER DAY WE HAD EXPRESSED SOME SKEPTICISM AND
DISBELIEF AS TO THE REALIZATION OF THE U.S. CONGRESS'
DECISION FOR DISCONTINUATION OF U.S. AID TO TURKEY
ON DECEMBER 10, UNLESS THERE WOULD BE SUBSTANTIAL PROGRESS
SHOWN IN NEGOTIATIONS FOR THE SOLUTION OF THE CYPRUS
PROBLEM. THE INK OF OUR WRITING HAD NOT YET DRIED
WHEN THE U.S. SENATE APPROVED A MOTION BY SENATOR
HUMPHREY EXTENDING AID TO TURKEY UNTIL FEBRUARY 10
IN ORDER TO ALLOW TIME TO PRESIDENT FORD AND MR. KISSINGER
TO ATTEMPT NEGOTIATIONS. ONCE AGAIN THE U.S. GOVERNMENT
HAS MANAGED TO IMPOSE ITS WISHES AND THE SENATE HAS
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GIVEN IN. IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN WHETHER THE HOUSE OF

REPRESENTATIVES WILL ALSO GIVE IN BECAUSE THE ENTIRE MATTER WILL DEPEND ON ITS DECISION. THE HOUSE IS EXPECTED TO VOTE ON THE AMENDMENT NEXT TUESDAY.

WHATEVER HAS TAKEN PLACE BEHIND THE SCENES IN ORDER TO GAIN THE SENATE'S VOTE FOR THE HUMPHREY AMENDMENT STANDS AS MOST ILLUMINATING OF THE METHODS APPLIED BY U.S. SECRETARY OF STATE KISSINGER IN ORDER TO IMPOSE HIS POLICIES. ON WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 27, THE EVE OF THANKSGIVING, THE AMENDMENT WAS SUBMITTED TO THE SENATE. THANKSGIVING IS ONE OF THE GREATEST HOLIDAYS IN THE UNITED STATES, CELEBRATED WITH A TWO DAY HOLIDAY. THE LEGISLATIVE BODY THEREFORE DID NOT MEET AGAIN UNTIL MONDAY AND THE HOLIDAYS DID NOT ALLOW THE GREEK-AMERICAN SENATORS AND THE FRIENDS OF GREECE TIME TO ACT SO THAT THE AMENDMENT COULD BE REJECTED. THE FEW DAYS BETWEEN MONDAY AND WEDNESDAY WHEN THE VOTE TOOK PLACE PROVIDED INSUFFICIENT TIME FOR SUCH AN EFFORT. IN THE MEANTIME, MR. KISSINGER HAD SUMMONED TO WASHINGTON THE AMBASSADORS TO GREECE AND TURKEY, MESSR. KUBISCH AND MACOMBER, CITING DISCUSSIONS ABOUT CYPRUS AS THE PRETEXT. IN ACTUAL FACT, HE USED THEM IN ORDER TO INFLUENCE SENATORS TO FAVOR THE HUMPHREY AMENDMENT. CONCRETELY, ON THE ONE HAND MR. KUBISCH ALLOWED IT TO BE UNDERSTOOD THAT ACCEPTANCE OF THE AMENDMENT WOULD NOT UNFAVORABLY AFFECT GREEK-AMERICAN RELATIONS SINCE THE GREEK GOVERNMENT HAS A "REDUCED INTEREST" IN THE MATTER OF CYPRUS, WHILE ON THE OTHER HAND MR. MACOMBER SPOKE OF THE STRONG INTEREST OF TURKEY IN THE SUBJECT AND THE VIOLENT TURKISH REACTIONS IN CASE OF DISCONTINUATION OF THE AID WITH EXTREMELY UNPLEASANT REPERCUSSIONS FOR AMERICAN-TURKISH RELATIONS. AND THUS WE ARRIVED AT THE VOTING FOR THE HUMPHREY AMENDMENT. MR. HUMPHREY, WHO IN THE PAST APPEARED AS A PHILHELLENE AND A LIBERAL, NOW PLAYED HIS TURKOPHILE ROLE. ONE REMAINS ASTOUNDED OVER THE USE OF SUCH METHODS WHICH, APART FROM THEIR OWN QUALITY PER SE, DEPICT THE DEGREE OF THE INNER WEAKENING SUFFERED BY THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT. YET, LET THE AMERICAN LEADERS AND THE MEMBERS OF CONGRESS REST ASSURED THAT THE FATE OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CYPRUS IS THE FIRST AND THE GREATEST NATIONAL ISSUE FOR HELLENISM IN ITS ENTIRETY, AND THAT THIS HAS PRIORITY FOR THE GREEK GOVERNMENT AND FOR GREEK PUBLIC OPINION. LET THEM ALSO REST ASSURED THAT WASHINGTON'S TURKOPHILE STAND AND WASHINGTON'S INSISTENCE ON THE CONTINUATION OF AID TO TURKEY WILL CAUSE STRONG REACTIONS IN GREECE AND WILL WORSEN TO AN UNFORESEEABLE DEGREE THE ALREADY COLD GREEK-AMERICAN RELATIONS WITH REPERCUSSIONS WHICH

WASHINGTON MUST CONSIDER. GREECE NEITHER ACCEPTS NOR WILL ACCEPT SUCH "SOLUTIONS" AS THE PARTITION OF CYPRUS, WHICH WOULD MEAN A DECAY AND UPROOTING OF THE HELLENISM OF CYPRUS. AND NOBODY IS DECEIVED BY THE "ARGUMENT" OF THE TRANSATLANTIC SUPPORTERS OF TURKEY, THAT THE DISCONTINUATION OF AMERICAN AID TO TURKEY WOULD MAKE MORE DIFFICULT THE ATTEMPT TO ACHIEVE A SOUND, JUST AND ACCEPTABLE SOLUTION FOR THE CYPRUS PROBLEM. THE ABSOLUTE CONTRARY IS THE TRUTH.

WHY SHOULD TURKEY MAKE CONCESSIONS AND ACCEPT A SOLUTION BASED ON CYPRUS INDEPENDENCE OR WHY SHOULD IT AVOID MOVEMENT OF POPULATIONS UNLESS THERE IS SUBSTANTIAL PRESSURE EXERCISED UPON TURKEY SUCH AS THE INTERRUPTION OF AMERICAN AID? ARE THE MEMBERS OF THE SENATE AND OF THE HOUSE SO NAIVE AS TO BELIEVE THE CONTRARY, OR IS IT THAT THEY SIMPLY PRETEND THAT THEY BELIEVE THIS, AS AN "ALIBI" FOR THEIR SUBMISSION AND THEIR WEAKNESS VIS-A-VIS THOSE WHO HAVE THE EXECUTIVE AUTHORITY? DID NEITHER MR. IRMAK'S STATEMENT CONVINCE THEM, WHEN THE TURKISH PREMIER DECLARED THAT "NOT ONE INCH OF THE OCCUPIED CYPRIOT LAND IS TO BE ABANDONED" NOR HIS INSISTENCE ON A "GEOGRAPHIC FEDERATION"? THE STANDING WHICH WILL BE TAKEN BY CONGRESS NEXT TUESDAY WILL PROVE INTER ALIA WHETHER THE U.S. CONGRESS WISHES TO REGAIN SOME VOICE IN THE FORMULATION OF THE FOREIGN POLICIES OF THAT COUNTRY OR WHETHER IT WILL ALLOW ITSELF TO DEGENERATE FURTHER AND PERMIT THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A "CAESARISM", THE BITTER FRUIT OF WHICH THAT GREAT COUNTRY IS ALREADY TASTING BOTH IN ITS INTERNATIONAL AND DOMESTIC AFFAIRS.
END TEXT.

2. COMMENT FOLLOWS SEPTEL. STEARNS
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